

105th Congress, 2d Session - - - - - House Document 105-186

PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION REGARDING
THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS,
THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TRANSMITTING

NOTIFICATION THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS EXERCISED THE AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND RESTRICTIONS ON THE MAINTENANCE OF A PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION OFFICE FOR A DURATION OF SIX MONTHS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 539(d) OF THE FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS ACT, FY 1998.



FEBRUARY 3, 1998.—Referred jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations, and ordered to be printed

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WASHINGTON : 1998



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

DEC 9 1997

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We wish to inform you that pursuant to section 539(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Act, FY 1998, the President has exercised the authority provided him by the Act and has issued the required determination to suspend restrictions on the maintenance of a Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Office for a duration of six months.

A copy of this Presidential Determination is enclosed along with a policy justification.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara Larkin".

Barbara Larkin
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

Enclosures: As stated.

The Honorable
Newt Gingrich,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 5, 1997

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Presidential Determination
No. 98-8

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: Presidential Determination on Waiver and
Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding
the Palestine Liberation Organization

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under section 539(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1998, Public Law 105-118, I hereby determine and certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, Public Law 100-204, through June 4, 1998.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the Federal Register.

William Clinton

JUSTIFICATION

A fundamental and overarching foreign policy and national security goal of the United States is to obtain a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between Israel and its neighbors. An Israeli-Palestinian peace is critical in that regard. The President has waived the operation of Section 1003 of P.L.100-204 for six months because it is a serious impediment to the United States playing an effective role in achieving that objective. It interferes with the ability of PLO officials to travel to the United States for negotiations with Israel or carry out contacts with US officials. Moreover, the PLO office serves to facilitate contacts and to enhance the confidence of Palestinians in their relationship with the United States. Maintaining an ongoing relationship with the PLO subject to Section 1003 has important symbolic effects in our effort to broker a peaceful Middle East settlement. This relationship is of particular importance now, as the United States seeks to help Israelis and Palestinians reach agreement on the implementation of the Interim Agreement and launch negotiations on permanent status.

The PLO office in Washington is not and never has been an Embassy. The United States has never accorded the PLO office any of the immunities or privileges of a diplomatic mission. This waiver would not in any way change these practices, and the office would resume operations under the same guidelines that have applied since its opening in 1994.

